

Ronald P.



Ronald P., a 68-year-old retired social studies teacher from Mission, Kansas, awoke on the morning of November 7, 2010, and told his wife, Enola, that he was having heartburn and felt clammy.

Ronald was not feeling better after about an hour so Enola went to get him some aspirin. Enola went to take a shower, and then realized he might be having a heart attack. When she came out of the bathroom, he was collapsed on the bed. He was unconscious/unresponsive and gasping.

Enola immediately dialed 9-1-1. Unfortunately, their Mesa winter home had a landline with their Kansas phone number. Not realizing she was connected to a dispatcher in Kansas, Enola had to repeat her Mesa address 3 times. Finally, the Kansas Dispatch called Mesa Dispatch, while they gave her immediate, clear and assertive instructions to begin rapid, hard chest compressions. Enola followed these CPR instructions and continued chest compressions for over 7 minutes until paramedics from the Mesa Fire Department arrived at their home 5 minutes later. Within 90 seconds of arrival at the residence, the Mesa Fire team had located their patient, moved him to the family room, attached the defibrillator pads and initiated high-quality CPR using an audio-visual feedback monitor to guide their compression rate and depth.

Upon arriving at the hospital, Ronald was still in ventricular fibrillation and the Mesa Fire Paramedics continued their resuscitation to avoid any excessive pauses in CPR as the patient was transitioned to the Emergency Department monitor/defibrillator. He received an additional 5 defibrillations in the Emergency Department before finally achieving Return of Spontaneous Circulation. In all, Ronald received a total of 42 minutes of CPR.

Ronald P. has lost 60 lbs., and is back home in Mission, Kansas working out 5 days a week, and playing golf at least 2 days a week. He and Enola are history buffs and enjoy traveling together. They return to Mesa, Arizona every November. Enola is thankful to the Mesa Fire Department and Banner Baywood Medical Center. Ronald calls his wife his "lifesaver"!